

Former Louisiana Governor Blanco Passes

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco (December 15, 1942 - August 18, 2019) served as the 54th Governor of Louisiana from January 2004 to January 2008.

She was born Kathleen Babineaux in New Iberia, Louisiana, the daughter of Louis Babineaux and his wife, the former Lucille Fremin, both of Cajun ancestry. Blanco attended Mount Carmel Academy, an all-girls school run by the Roman Catholic Sisters of Mount Carmel, which was situated on the banks of Bayou Teche. In 1964, Blanco received a Bachelor of Science in Business Education from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, then named the University of Southwestern Louisiana. On August 8, 1964, she married Raymond Blanco, the couple had four daughters: Karmen, Monique, Nicole, and Pilar and two sons: Ray Jr., and Ben.

Following college, Blanco taught business at Breau Bridge High School. She then worked for roughly fifteen years as a stay-at-home mom for her six children. She later worked as a District Manager for the U.S. Department of Commerce during the 1980 Census initiative and with her husband, owned Coteau Consultants, a political and marketing research firm.

Blanco served twenty years in public office. In 1983, elected as the first woman legislator from the city of Lafayette, she served five years in the Louisiana House of Representatives. In 1988 became the first woman in Louisiana elected to the Louisiana Public Service Commission, a post that she held for seven years. She was also the first woman chairman of the PSC. She was then elected Lieutenant Governor, a post that she held for eight years.

In following best practices for emergency management nationwide, in the 2006 Legislative Session, Governor Blanco pushed to establish into law the creation of GOHSEP, which would be a stand-alone agency directly under the Governor's oversight within the Executive Department.



From The Director



It's that time. The heart of hurricane season is here. I know most of us try to stay optimistic, but the reality is this is when we historically see a spike in tropical activity. Our one tropical threat in 2019, Hurricane Barry, had much less impact than expected. We may not be that fortunate with the next system. It's crucial for GOHSEP, our partner agencies and our citizens to have our game plans ready. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) increased its forecast for hurricane season to five to nine hurricanes, up from its forecast of four to eight issued at the beginning of the season. This typically involves the span from mid-August to late October. That's when we often see a line of storms roll across the Atlantic from Africa.

September is also National Preparedness Month. FEMA announced the theme for 2019: Prepared, Not Scared. Each week, look for information on a different topic. Week 1 is Save Early for Disasters. Week 2 is Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters. Week 3 is Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters. Week 4 is Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness.

As we roll into October, we move into National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. We are still fighting a cybersecurity attack that threatened school systems across the state as they prepared to open their doors for students this fall. Governor Edwards declared the first cyber emergency in the state as we tackled those issues head on. Through the hard work of action teams deployed across the state, we helped those school systems open on time. We know those threats will continue, not only in Louisiana, but across the country.

Finally, we want to take a moment to remember the life of Former Governor Kathleen Blanco. The first woman elected governor of Louisiana recently died after a battle with cancer. Governor Blanco led the state's difficult response and recovery efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Our current operations at GOHSEP, along with many policies and procedures of our local and federal partners were shaped by those devastating events and the decisions made by Governor Blanco and her administration. We are stronger today because of the lessons learned during Governor Blanco's time in office. Please remember her family in your prayers as we say goodbye.

Thank you for all you do keeping our citizens safe.

- James Waskom

President Trump Approves Hurricane Barry Major Disaster Declaration for Louisiana

Baton Rouge, August 27, 2019 - Baton Rouge - Today, Governor John Bel Edwards was notified that President Donald Trump has approved his request for a Major Disaster Declaration for several Louisiana parishes that sustained damage caused by Hurricane Barry. This comes after teams from The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and FEMA recently completed damage assessments in the impacted areas.

Barry made landfall near Intracoastal City July 13th as a Category 1 hurricane. Storms associated with Hurricane Barry began impacting the state July 10th.

"While Barry did not cause widespread problems across the state, there were still issues where the hurricane made landfall as well as flooding from southeast Louisiana and southwest Louisiana to central Louisiana," said Governor Edwards. "We appreciate President Trump approving the state's request as we help support our local partners. We are now in the heart of hurricane season, and it's important for the state, our local partners and our citizens to stay prepared and informed as threats such as Dorian continue to develop."

The Public Assistance categories are as follows:

- Category A: Debris Removal.
- Category B: Emergency Protective Measures.
- Category C: Roads and Bridges.
- Category D: Water Control Facilities.
- Category E: Buildings and Equipment.
- Category F: Utilities.
- Category G: Parks, Recreational Facilities and Other Items

Summary of Public Assistance Approval (Emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities):

Allen, Iberia, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Mary, Terrebonne, and Vermillion Parishes for all categories of Public Assistance.

Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, and West Feliciana Parishes for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B), including direct federal assistance.

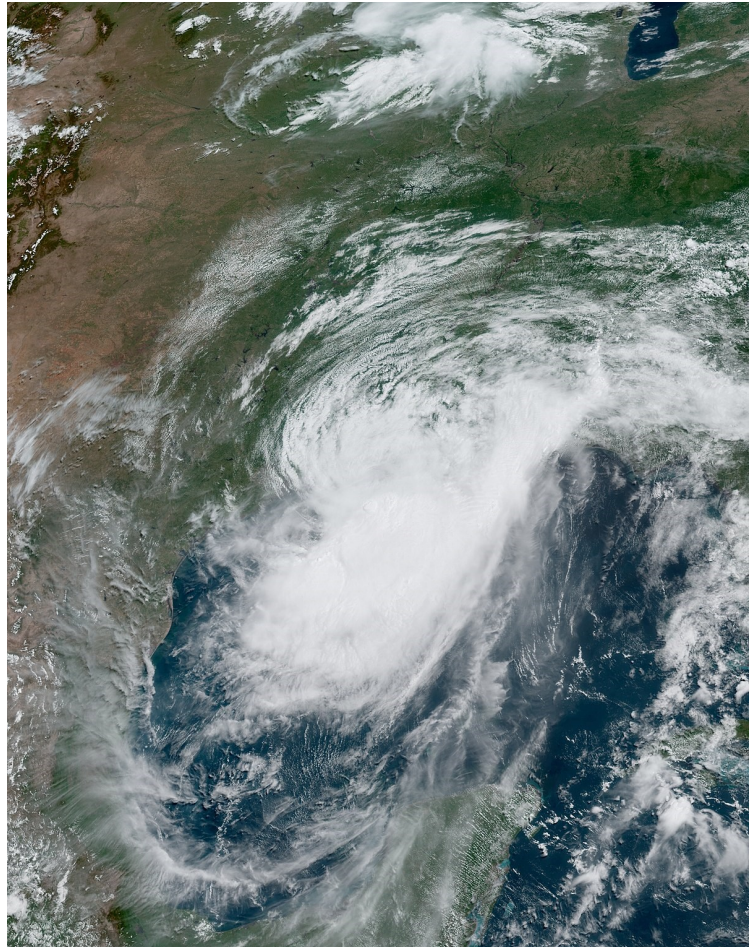
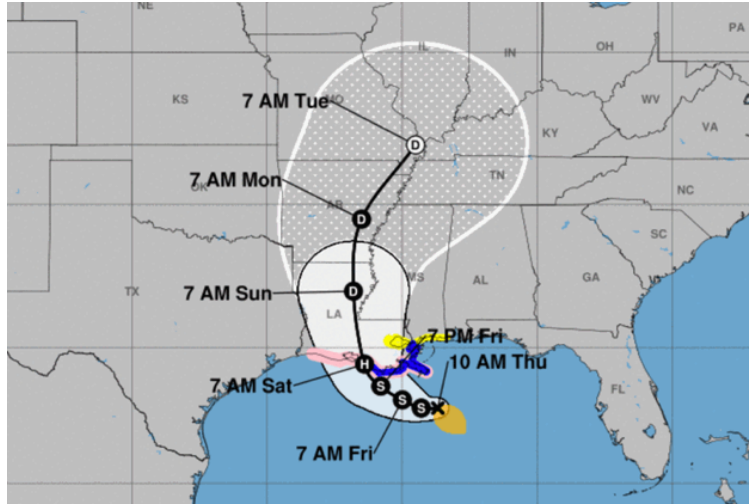
Summary of Hazard Mitigation (Assistance for actions taken to prevent or reduce long term risk to life and property from natural hazards):

All areas in the state of Louisiana are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

There was no request for Individual Assistance because damage assessment data did not indicate it was warranted.

Note: Additional parishes may be included in the Major Disaster Declaration as damage assessment work is completed and reviewed.

For questions or comments, please contact Mike Steele at mike.steele@la.gov.



Hurricane Barry off Louisiana coast in July of 2019.

Governor Edwards Requests Major Disaster Declaration Due to Record River Flood Levels

Baton Rouge, August 16, 2019 - Governor John Bel Edwards has sent a letter to President Donald J. Trump requesting that he issue a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Louisiana due to flooding that occurred along the Mississippi River and its tributaries this year. The Declaration would allow the federal government to supplement the flood fight costs for state and local agencies along with damages incurred.

"We have never dealt with river flooding issues like we have experienced this year," said Governor Edwards. "The Mississippi River remained above flood stage for the longest period in recorded history, and record rainfall only added to problems along waterways across the state. The conditions were so extreme that the Bonnet Carré Spillway had to be opened twice. While we faced a threat that exceeded the 1927 Mississippi River flood, our local levee districts and parishes have incurred great costs for patrols and temporary repair efforts. State agencies took extraordinary measures to support our local partners, but assistance from the federal government will be instrumental in helping them continue their recovery."

Governor Edwards is requesting Public Assistance (Categories A-G) for the Parishes of Assumption, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Iberville, Ouachita, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Martin, Terrebonne, and West Feliciana. He is also requesting Hazard Mitigation statewide.

Categories A-G involve debris removal, emergency protective measures and permanent work on infrastructures such as roads, bridges, water control facilities, buildings, equipment, utilities, and parks.

The request indicates, unlike other disasters that lead to federal declarations, that Lower Mississippi River flooding cannot be defined by a single, brief period of time. According to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Mississippi River and tributaries drain 41 percent of all water in the U.S. It is the world's third-largest watershed. The increased rainfall in the Midwest and Tennessee, Ohio and Arkansas river valleys, as well as record snowmelt in the north since the end of 2018, led to a large increase of water in that system - all eventually draining to Louisiana. For months, those floodwaters continued to impact the levee system in Louisiana. Although Louisiana's extensive system of levees, floodwalls, and three major diversion structures were able to contain the heightened river waters, Louisiana's continued flood fighting measures were vital in preventing catastrophic flooding in those areas near the river.

When Governor Edwards issued a State of Emergency Declaration for Louisiana effective February 26, 2019, he directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan. At that point, state assets coordinated with and supplemented local assets for preserving public health and safety, as well as improved property. Those emergency protective measures continue to this day. However, since the Mississippi River fell below moderate flood stage at all gauges by July 30, the governor is asking that the incident period be extended through that date.

Additional parishes may be added once the full assessment process is completed. Damage assessment work is not possible in some areas at this time because high river levels make roads inaccessible.

For questions or comments, please contact Mike Steele at mike.steele@la.gov.



The Bonnet Carré Spillway diverts the rising waters from the Mississippi River during the 2019 high water event.



Sinking of a barge in Bayou Chene in 2019. The barge acted as a flood gate to keep backwater flooding from entering Assumption, lower St. Martin, and St. Mary parishes during the high river levels.

John Taylor Awarded MEMS Certification

GOHSEP's John Taylor was recently awarded the Military Emergency Management Specialist (MEMS) Badge and Certification.

The Military Emergency Management Specialist (MEMS) Academy program is established to give State Defense Forces and Civil Authorities the ability to obtain credentialing in the field of emergency management. This national credentialing program is open to active duty, reserve, retired, prior service veterans and civilians serving in the area of emergency management.

John is GOHSEP's Regional Support Coordinator for Region 7. The Region is comprised of Bossier, Bienville, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River and Webster Parish. John is based out of Shreveport.

You may contact John at: john.taylor@la.gov.



September Is National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. FEMA encourages and reminds Americans to be prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. The 2019 theme is "Prepared, Not Scared."

For more information, visit www.ready.gov/september.



National Preparedness Month 2019

2019 Weekly Themes

Week 1: Sept 1-7
Save Early for Disaster Costs

Week 2: Sept 8-14
Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters

Week 3: Sept 15-21
Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters

Week 4: Sept 22-30
Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness



#NatIPrep

Ready ✓



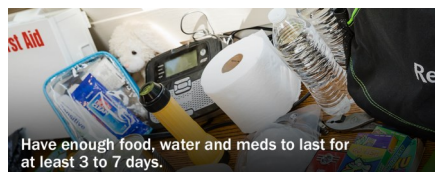
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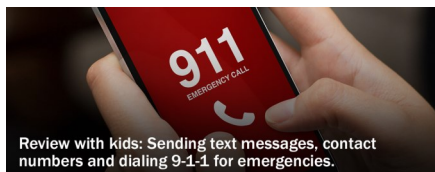
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The Latest GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is Available

A new episode of The GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is now available!

As we approach the height of the 2019 Hurricane Season, FEMA and GOHSEP would like to ensure private non-profit, religious organizations are aware of recent changes to the Public Assistance program. FEMA funding can be used, in certain cases, to repair or replace damaged facilities back to its pre-disaster design, function and capacity. We will explain that process and hear from leaders from two organizations that have been impacted by this change.

Plus, are you prepared for an emergency? We will share census information to let you know if the public is ready for a potential disaster.



Find a link at GetAGamePlan.org or download and subscribe to the podcast from Spotify or any other major podcast store. or many other podcast stores.

Parish Profile - Orleans

City of New Orleans Completes Successful Evacuation Installation Drill

NEW ORLEANS - On Friday, June 28, the City of New Orleans and its partners completed a functional exercise of the City-Assisted Evacuation plan, which offers an evacuation option of last resort for residents otherwise unable to leave during a mandatory evacuation ahead of a major hurricane.

Friday's exercise, led by the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (NOHSEP), tested the physical setup of the Smoothie King Center in the event of a mandatory evacuation order. Nearly 100 staff from New Orleans public safety agencies and our State, Federal, and private sector partners erected barricades, tables, chairs, signage and other equipment in areas that will be used to process evacuees including in the main floor, pet evacuation, medical special needs, and air evacuation areas. As expected from any drill, there were key takeaways from Friday's exercise, including tweaks to the floor-plan and throughput areas.

"Although this evacuation plan is an option of last resort, we know that many of our most vulnerable residents have no other way of getting out ahead of a storm," said NOHSEP Director Collin Arnold. "Friday's successful setup of the Smoothie King Center as a processing site is a clear indication that the City of New Orleans is ready should a major storm come our way."

In May, the City announced it will now utilize the Smoothie King Center as the Orleans Parish City-Assisted Evacuation processing site in place of the formerly-used Union Passenger Terminal. Use of the Smoothie King Center will allow the City to nearly quadruple the throughput, or number of people that can be evacuated at one time during a mandatory evacuation, a number now estimated to include 35,000 to 40,000 New Orleans residents who need evacuation assistance due to transportation, financial, or medical need. Additionally, the Smoothie King Center better accommodates individuals on the Special Needs Registry who may have medical or mobility equipment and may require additional assistance.

Also participating in Friday's functional evacuation installation drill were representatives from Evacuteer, the New Orleans Fire Department, New Orleans Police Department, New Orleans Emergency Medical Services, New Orleans Health Department, Regional Transit Authority, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana Department of Health, Department of Children and Family Services, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

About City-Assisted Evacuation

City-Assisted Evacuation provides transportation assistance as an option of last resort for residents during a mandatory evacuation order ahead of a major hurricane. Evacuees using the City-Assisted Evacuation program should go to one of 17 evacuation pickup points or evacuspots marked by a 14-foot metal statue resembling a person hailing a bus. Five of the evacuspots have indoor areas specifically designated for the elderly or people with minor medical or mobility needs. Regional Transit Authority buses bring evacuees from the evacuspots to the Smoothie King Center for processing. From there, evacuees are transported by motor coach bus or airplane to a State- or Federally-run shelter.

Residents with access or functional needs preventing them from physically getting to an evacuspots may be eligible to be picked up from their home by a paratransit vehicle or other accommodation through the City's Special Needs Registry, run by the New Orleans Health Department. Residents who cannot evacuate on their own and who use life support systems, have trouble walking, are blind or deaf, are on dialysis or have intellectual or mental health disabilities should call 3-1-1 or go to specialneeds.nola.gov to sign up for the Special Needs Registry. Health Department staff will help these individuals determine the best evacuation plan based on their needs, which could include special transportation and sheltering at a Medical Special Needs Shelter.

Evacuees are allowed one carry-on sized bag that should include clothing, hygiene items, medications, and important documents. Medical equipment, strollers, and pet supplies are not included in the one bag rule, so evacuees should bring those items as well. Depending on the size of the animal, pets may be transported in a carrier on the evacuee's lap or transported in a separate vehicle. Pets will be sheltered at an animal shelter near where evacuees are sheltered.

Locations of the 17 evacuspots are listed below. Additional information and an interactive map is available at ready.nola.gov/evacuate.

Senior Evacuspots

Arthur Monday Center, 1111 Newton Ave.
Central City Senior Center, 2101 Philip St.
Kingsley House, 1600 Constance St.
Mater Dolorosa, 1226 S. Carrollton Ave.
Sanchez Center, 1616 Caffin Ave.

General Population Evacuspots

Dryades YMCA, 1924 Philip St.
East New Orleans Library, 5641 Read Blvd.
General Meyer & Pace Bus Stop, 2832 General Meyer Ave.
Louis Armstrong Park, 801 N. Rampart St.
Lyons Center, 624 Louisiana Ave.
Mary Queen of Vietnam Church, 14001 Dwyer Blvd.
McMain High School, 5712 S. Claiborne Ave.
Palmer Park, S.Claiborne & S.Carrollton
Smith Library, 6300 Canal Blvd.
Stallings Center, 4300 St. Claude Ave.
Walmart, 4301 Chef Mentour Hwy.
Warren Easton High School, 3019 Canal St.

The City encourages all New Orleanians to remember that the first line of defense against a disaster is personal preparedness. Learn more about getting ready for hurricane season at ready.nola.gov/hurricane and sign up for emergency alerts by texting your zip code to 888777.

Founded:	1718
Named For:	Philippe II, Duke of Orléans
Largest City:	New Orleans
Total Area:	349.85 square miles
Population (2015):	343,829



OHSEP Director
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nola.gov/homeland-security

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

For questions or comments about the birthdays, contact: Tiffany Johnson - tiffany.l.johnson@la.gov

Willetta Porter (Public Assistance SALs)	08/02	Latasha Williams (Hazard Mitigation Grants)	08/12
Tyela Obear (Public Assistance Closeout)	08/05	Christopher Olvey (Hazard Mitigation SALs)	08/13
James Haney (Public Assistance Closeout)	08/06	Alicia Hunt (State Management Cost)	08/14
Lynda Merrill (Public Assistance Closeout)	08/07	Takisha Ross (Sub-Recipient Monitoring)	08/15
Ashley Wilson-Griffin (Hazard Mitigation Closeout)	08/09	Sean Wyatt (Hazard Mitigation Management)	08/16
Christen Chiasson (Public Assistance Grants)	08/09	Lee John (Regional Coordination)	08/18
Shera Nixon (Homeland Security Grants)	08/09	Michael Verrett (Public Assistance SALs)	08/26
Stanley Aaron (Hazard Mitigation SALs)	08/09	Unmesh Kirtikar (Technical Services)	08/26
Teresa Basco (Regional Coordination)	08/10	Kecia Gonzalez (Public Assistance Closeout)	08/27
Florence Williams (Public Assistance Grants)	08/11	Daniel McLaughlin (Facility Management)	08/29

UPCOMING EVENTS

To sign up or for more information

TRAINING

Aug 28, 2019	ICS 400 Advanced Incident Command System - Madisonville, Louisiana
Sept 19-20, 2019	ICS 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Lafayette, Louisiana
Sept 24-25, 2019	ICS 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Shreveport, Louisiana
Sept 26, 2019	ICS 400 Advanced Incident Command System - Shreveport, Louisiana
Oct 7-8, 2019	ICS 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Gray, Louisiana
Oct 9-10, 2019	Louisiana Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (LA-CBRNE) Workshop - Amite, Louisiana
Oct 11, 2019	ICS 400 Advanced Incident Command System - Lafayette, Louisiana
Oct 14-18, 2019	Communications Unit Technician (COMT) - Gonzales, Louisiana
Oct 23-24, 2019	MGT 345 Disaster Management for Electric Power Systems - New Orleans, Louisiana
Oct 28-30, 2019	PER 340 Active Threat Integrated Response Course - Kenner, Louisiana
Oct 31-Nov 1, 2019	PER-335 Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks - Kenner, Louisiana
Nov 4-5, 2019	Law Enforcement Prevention & Deterrence of Terrorist Acts - Scott, Louisiana
Nov 4-6, 2019	PER-340 Active Threat Integrated Response Course (ATIRC) - Kenner, Louisiana
Nov 5-7, 2019	PER 229 Intro to Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) - Lake Charles, Louisiana
Nov 13-14, 2019	MGT 317 Disaster Management for Public Services - New Orleans, Louisiana
Dec 3-4, 2019	MGT-319 Medical Countermeasures: Point of Dispensing, Plan & Response - Monroe, Louisiana
Dec 4-5, 2019	MGT 341 Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals & Healthcare Organizations - New Orleans, Louisiana
Jan 28-29, 2020	MGT 343 - Disaster Management for Water & Wastewater Utilities - Chalmette, Louisiana

NEW AGENCY HIRES

ShaQuita Burton

Administrative Assistant (Facility Management)

Kiera Kelly

Administrative Assistant (Legal)

RETIREMENTS

Glenda Aceves

(Public Assistance Closeout)

UPCOMING STATE HOLIDAYS

Labor Day - September 2, 2019 (Federal and State Holiday)

Request For Articles

If you would like to include an article in future issues of *The GOHSEP Focus*, please contact: Your designated Agency Representative or

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